

Appln No. 09/758,717

Amdt date July 16, 2004

Reply to Office action of January 16, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4, 6-31, 45, 46, 48-67 and 81-85 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-3 and 5 and 47 have been canceled, as well as claims 32-44 and 68-80, previously withdrawn from consideration. Claims 4 and 45 have been amended. Claims 81-85 have been allowed.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-2, 4-9, 14-22, 27, 45-50, 55-59, and 64 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Endo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,335,754). The Examiner also rejects claims 28-31 and 65-67 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo in view of Chojnacki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,674,434). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claims 1-2 have been canceled. The rejection of claims 1-2 has therefore been obviated.

Independent claims 4 and 45 have been amended to recite the limitation of "processing image data acquired from the plurality of images to create a composite image representing the object, wherein the composite image simulates a view of the object from a particular location that is situated off of the path of the image recording device." (Emphasis added). Endo fails to teach or suggest this limitation.

Endo is directed to a system that generates a 360° panoramic image from individual images obtained by various cameras that point in a plurality of discrete azimuth directions. The cameras are mounted on a vehicle that traverses along a particular path. The view of a particular panoramic image generated by the system in Endo is a view from a location

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that is situated on the path traversed by the cameras. Nothing in Endo teaches or suggests that the generated panoramic image simulates a view from a location "that is situated off of the path of the image recording device." Accordingly, claims 4 and 45 are now in condition for allowance.

With respect to independent claims 16 and 56, the Examiner rejected these claims based on the description in Endo of the generation of its database. In Endo, the database that is generated is a database of correlated data, that is, data that associates an image with a first timestamp from a first camera with an image with a second timestamp from a second camera, an image with a third timestamp from a third camera, and so on. These images are then used to synthesize panoramic images.

Nothing in Endo teaches or suggests, however, "partitioning the path [of the image recording device] into a plurality of discrete segments; associating the composite image to one of the discrete segments; and storing the composite image and association information in the composite image database." There is no mention in Endo that the actual synthesized panoramic images are stored in any database, and much less, that such panoramic images are associated with any segment of the path of the image recording devices. Accordingly, claims 16 and 56 are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 6-15, 17-31, 46-55, 56-67 are further in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowance base claim, and for the additional limitations contained therein.

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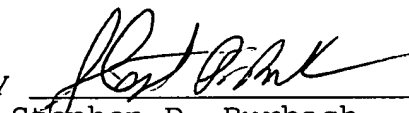
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In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 4, 6-31, 45, 46, 48-67 and 81-85.

Respectfully submitted,

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